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November 22, 1976

Mr. John W. Berry III
Editor
Library Journal
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Berry,

I would like to comment on the item which appears on page 2209 of Library Journal, November 1, 1976, entitled, "CIA Library Probes Zapped by Abzug."

The allegation that a "representative of the Central Intelligence Agency made an unsolicited visit to a major university library...in an attempt to determine, without subpoena, what library materials were being used by a U.S. citizen who resided in the area" was referred to this Agency by Rep. Bella S. Abzug, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights.

Mr. George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, wrote to Mrs. Abzug on October 8 that "a careful check of appropriate Agency offices failed to reveal any information indicating that an Agency representative visited the library in question requesting information. Mr. Bush continued: "Nor is there any indication that such a visit would have been made to any other American library. It is clear that this individual was not an employee of this agency. Such impersonation of a Federal officer is a criminal offense. Accordingly, we are referring your letter to the Department of Justice for such action as they deem necessary."

There is no indication that this agency has ever been involved in the type of incident described.

I wish to assure you and your readers that CIA does not "probe" American libraries. On the other hand, CIA operates a library in support of its extensive analytical programs and in this connection maintains cooperative exchanges with libraries throughout the United States for mutual benefit. We value these professional library relationships and regret such unfounded and unfortunate allegations as appeared in your November 1 issue.

A Sincerely



— Andrew T. Falkiewicz
Assistant to the Director
of Central Intelligence

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